

Proceedings of General Assembly

The General Assembly.

The forty-ninth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, convened in the First Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga., on May 20. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring moderator, President W. W. Moore, of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va. The text of this admirable and valuable discourse was, Deut. vi, 6-7. "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." The speaker's theme was, "Family Religion," including the duty of the Church in training the young.

After the opening sermon, a cordial address of welcome was delivered by the pastor of the church, Rev. W. Moore Scott, in which graceful allusion was made to facts of secular and religious interest in connection with the history of Savannah.

Following the address of the pastor, was one by Mr. C. S. Wood, on behalf of the session and congregation, which was the formal presentation to the Assembly of a gavel, made from a beam of the old belfry of St. Peter's Cathedral at Geneva, where Calvin preached.

The enrollment of commissioners indicated a large attendance at the opening session of the Assembly.

When nominations for moderator were called for, Dr. W. E. Boggs, of the Synod of Florida, was nominated by Dr. A. M. Fraser, of the Synod of Virginia. Judge DuBose nominated Rev. A. M. Fraser. Rev. W. C. Smith, nominated Dr. C. W. Grafton, of the Synod of Mississippi. Mr. C. C. Gilbert, nominated Dr. R. C. Reed, of the Synod of Georgia, and Mr. Owsley Saunders, nominated Mr. G. W. Watts, of the Synod of North Carolina. Dr. Boggs was declared elected, and his election was made unanimous by a rising vote.

On being escorted to the chair, Dr. Boggs was presented with the gavel in well chosen words by the retiring moderator, and responded in appropriate and pleasing terms. Rev. R. L. Benn and Rev. A. L. Patterson, were elected temporary clerks.

The hours of sessions were announced as 9:30 a. m. to 2 p. m. and 8:30 p. m. The Calvin address to be delivered at 11 a. m., and 9 p. m. There are twelve of the addresses and they will probably be printed in permanent form.

At a short afternoon session, held in the first day, Dr. Grafton, of the Synod of Mississippi, presided. The printed reports of the Executive Committees, were presented and placed in the hands of the appropriate Standing Committees, also of the committee on the Bible cause.

Announcement was made of various orders for the prosecution of business and for an excursion down the river on Saturday afternoon.

Evening Session.

The Assembly engaged in devotional exercises for half an hour, after which Rev. Charles Merle D'Aubigne, of France, delivered a fine address on "Calvin and His Times." Mr. D'Aubigne

speaks in broken English with French accent, but in a pleasing style.

The thanks of the Assembly were tendered for this address. The Assembly adjourned with prayer until 9:30 a. m. tomorrow.

Second Day.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. Green, of the Synod of Kentucky. The names of additional commissioners were enrolled and the minutes of yesterday's sessions were read. Rev. Mr. D'Aubigne, of France, and Prof. James Orr, of Scotland, were formally introduced to the Assembly and accorded the privileges of the floor.

The Standing Committees appointed by the moderator, were announced as follows:

The Standing Committee.

- 1.—BILLS AND OVERTURES.
W. W. Moore, S. A. King, P. P. Flournoy, W. L. Nourse, L. J. Weber, J. E. DuBose, T. J. Moore, Jas. R. Hudson, D. G. Munn, C. F. Zeek.
- 2.—JUDICIAL.
C. W. Grafton, J. W. Johnson (of Mississippi), W. T. Walker, D. S. Henderson, H. B. Barks, J. T. Avery, C. D. Gilkeson, J. W. Siler, J. L. Backman.
- 3.—FOREIGN MISSIONS.
R. C. Reed, R. O. Flinn, A. J. A. Alexander, Clyde Johnson, T. S. Knox, P. K. Sims, R. S. Brank, W. H. Whitaker, F. J. V. LeCand, R. M. Hall, C. E. Gilbert, R. D. Campbell.
- 4.—FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.
J. E. Thacker, Edward Bailey, W. F. Law, W. O. Shewmaker, J. D. Summers, G. S. Robinson, Newton Smith, G. S. Robinson.
- 5.—HOME MISSIONS.
A. M. Fraser, W. H. Miley, M. W. Doggett, W. P. Anderson, W. C. Smith, P. C. Irwin, G. G. Mayes, J. T. Owen.
- 6.—PUBLICATION, SABBATH SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.
J. M. Rose, B. L. Price, Jno. S. Wood, A. W. Blake, J. R. Forgy, J. B. Long, D. D. Talley, J. W. Johnson (of S. C.), J. W. Holt, R. G. Hubbard.
- 7.—MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND RELIEF.
J. M. Wells, W. H. Irwine, J. E. Hagood, J. L. Bell, A. G. Wardlaw, J. V. Chambers, L. W. Irwin, R. D. Firebaugh, R. L. Bewley, T. B. Trenholm.
- 8.—COLORED EVANGELIZATION.
Donald McQueen, W. F. Galbraith, J. P. Hall, E. L. Wilson, R. P. Osborne, C. P. McClung, R. L. Smith, E. J. Davis, A. F. Myers.
- 9.—THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES.
J. H. Lumpkin, G. W. Black, T. C. Croker, J. P. Clark, H. F. Emery, I. J. Arden, W. F. Murphy.
- 10.—HOME AND SCHOOL.
Geo. Watts, H. W. Burwell, U. D. Mooney, E. B. Hawkins, H. M. Smith, F. M. Eversole, E. E. Powe, F. G. Hartman, Thos. A. Henry.
- 11.—WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.
J. W. Tyler, H. M. Smith, R. H. Hayes, J. W. Shive, A. O. Price, F. A. Castner, W. W. Bain.
- 12.—SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.
Z. N. Yarbrow, J. E. Wiley, L. Humphreys, J. E. Hagood, J. H. Kirby.
- 13.—NARRATIVE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.
J. M. Holladay, J. McD. A. Lacey, F. E. Williams, H. H. Lewis.
- 14.—BIBLE CAUSE.
M. S. Smith, M. C. Arrowwood, P. S. Rhodes, C. H. Champney.
- 15.—SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.
H. A. White, G. H. Cornelson, E. W. Grant, J. E. Travis, S. J. Coffman, N. E. Gilmore, C. E. Raynal, B. G. Boyd.
- 16.—SABBATH AND FAMILY RELIGION.
F. L. Leeper, C. W. Latham, J. D. Paxton, G. M. Boteler, J. W. Butler, Jas. Reeves.
- 17.—AUDITING.
N. Crane, C. E. Gunn, H. Glider, H. A. Chambers, R. N. Nisbet.
- 18.—LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
Father Link, H. Maxey, R. D. Smith, R. D. Carson, B. G. McCormick, W. M. Walsh, W. L. Boyd.
- 19.—DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.
J. W. Stokes, J. T. Scott, A. E. Dimmock.
- 20.—SYNDICAL RECORDS.
Alabama—A. J. Ponton, J. H. Gallman, C. W. McCulley.

Arkansas—P. L. Bruce, R. C. Jones, F. W. Thompson.
Florida—A. J. Craig, A. M. Vaughn, H. Gartrell.
Georgia—T. E. Simpson, J. B. Gracey.
Kentucky—J. G. Lane, H. K. White, W. R. Young.
Louisiana—E. F. Price, T. H. Watkins, R. W. McDonald.
Mississippi—Geo. D. Brown, D. C. Clark, Z. V. Turlington.
Missouri—F. W. Gregg, J. C. Amsler, J. A. Crawford.
North Carolina—W. H. Newhall, T. L. Tate, Owsley Saunders.
South Carolina—J. G. Varner, Job Going, E. L. Bell.
Tennessee—B. B. Knapp, T. B. Hammock, S. R. Watson.
Virginia—J. P. Hall, W. L. Elliot, J. W. Butler.
Texas—J. W. Hittner, D. C. Gordon, P. P. Flournoy.

A communication from several Presbyterian bodies of Switzerland and France, addressed to the Assembly, was read. This communication announced that the second, third, and fourth of July, would be observed in honor of the memory of Calvin and asking that the Church participate in this observance and be represented in Geneva at that time by a delegate.

A letter was read from Dr. A. D. Mason, of the General Synod of the Reformed Church of America, bearing the fraternal greetings of that body.

A number of communications were presented to the Assembly by the stated clerk.

Complaints were filed as follows:

Messrs. Sorey and others against the Synod of Texas. W. H. Mills against the Synod of South Carolina. B. H. Young and others against the Synod of Kentucky.

The reports of Presbyteries on overtures, sent down by the last Assembly, were referred to the Committee on bills and overtures.

Records of the various Synods were placed in the hands of the chairmen of the committees appointed.

A complaint by H. C. Dubose was referred to the Judicial Committee.

A communication from Dr. John Fox, of the American Bible Society, was read and referred to the committee on the Bible cause.

Overtures.

Overtures from the Synods of Louisiana and Mississippi, relative to conforming Synodical to State lines, were referred. Other overtures were from:

Nashville: To make the moderator of one Assembly, a member at large of the next Assembly ex-officio. East Mississippi to amend the Confession of Faith, so as to express the faith of the Church more clearly on the subject of the salvation of infants dying in infancy. Other Presbyteries sent up overtures to the same effect.

Mobile: To amend Confession of Faith, so as to avoid the appearance of teaching fatalism.

Presbyteries of Mangum, Upper Mo., and Central Mississippi, in favor of rotary eldership.

Presbytery Central Mississippi: Against considering the rotary eldership.

Synod of North Carolina: To make the Synod and Assembly bodies composed of representatives of the next lower court.

Presbytery of Chesapeake: To appoint an ad interim committee on polygamy in heathen lands.